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13 April 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Special Assistant

SUBJECT: Assessment of Strategically Situated Third World Countries

1. A paper that outlines the considerations Third World countries weigh in seeking aid from the U.S. and the Soviet Union should be completed within a week. This paper will assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. and the Soviet Union as donors of assistance--as perceived by the recipients. For instance, the Russians provide weapons faster than we do, and in general impose fewer explicit restrictions on their use. The U.S., on the other hand, is better at offering economic aid and food.

2. The Caribbean Basin paper that John McMahon cranked up should also be available, at least in draft form, next week. This paper will show which countries are receiving how much U.S. assistance.

3. A complete listing of all aid to strategically situated Third World countries is under way now. Since much of this information is on the shelf, this project should be done within two weeks. (At present, there is no complete listing of donors and recipients.)

4. I'm currently working up a list of key Third World countries whose governments are especially susceptible to this Administration's approach.

- We'll outline why these countries are good targets;
- The economic pressures they face;
- The security threats they confront;
- The current prospects for aid from all sources;
- The amount and kind of aid required.

5. I'm toying with the idea of a separate assessment of the U.S.-Soviet competition for Third World people--students, military officers, etc. How good are the superpowers at this game? How useful is it?

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How do the U.S. and Soviet Union compare at getting technical civilian and military advisers to Third World countries?

6. As you can see, my inclination is to swallow this whole subject in small bites.

Herbert E. Meyer

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